



Community Appearance Commission

Minutes January 2, 2008

The regular meeting of the Salisbury Community Appearance Commission was called to order Wednesday, January 2, 2008, at 4 p.m. by Barbara Perry, Chair, in the 2nd floor conference room, 217 South Main Street, Salisbury, North Carolina. The following members were present and absent:

Present: Suzanne Casey, Greta Connor, Diane Gibbs, Barbara Lawther, Barbara Perry, Sara Robinson, and Bill Safrit

Absent: Suzette Davis, Chad Morgan, Johnny Safrit, and Tom Wolpert

Staff: Diana Moghrabi and Lynn Raker

The minutes of the December 5, 2007, meeting were approved as submitted. There was no change in the financial report at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Neighborhoods & Education Committee

Greta Connor reported that Clyde Overcash had voiced his displeasure with the activities of the CAC. This is normal commentary from Clyde and the CAC is in good company with other organizations.

The brochure for the Adopt-a-Street program is being developed by Lynn Raker. The committee will meet Wednesday, January 30, at 4 p.m. in the first floor conference room.

Art in Public Places

- Barbara Perry and Lynn Raker presented recommendations from the Public Art Committee to the City Council on December 18 for the joint art project with Wachovia Bank, Rowan-Salisbury Schools, and the City of Salisbury. (The project will highlight the cotton mill “tent revival” on the downtown Wachovia site.) The project won approval from City Council. Now the committee will work on the budget and raising funds. Lynn met with art teachers and made a presentation; they seemed receptive.
- The committee has received approval for installation of an art piece by Michael Baker at the corner of Fisher and Lee Streets. Lynn will make a presentation to HPC for the artwork. HPC is working on guidelines for public art.

- The Public Art Committee has received permission to go forward with an annual sculpture show.
- There is currently a vacancy on the Public Art Committee; the CAC is supposed to have three members on the committee. Barbara Lawther is serving on the committee with Barbara Perry. Sarah Robinson will consider the vacancy.
- The CAC is invited to a meeting of the Public Art Committee when the consultant, Mary Berryman Agard, makes a presentation on the Cultural Action Plan. The meeting is Thursday, January 10, at 8:30 a.m. in the Plaza Seminar Room. The neighborhood leaders have been invited for a meeting Wednesday, January 9, from 4-5 p.m. in the Plaza Seminar Room.

Landscaping

The Third Annual Downtown Storefront Holiday Decorations award program judging was announced in the Salisbury Post. The CAC recently selected winners for its third annual Holiday Storefront Decorations Awards. The awards were designed to promote a festive atmosphere downtown during the holiday season. The CAC would like to reinforce the success of the Downtown Salisbury, Inc. in encouraging downtown shopkeepers to enhance their year-round window displays.

The jury members enjoyed viewing more than 50 seasonal displays created by downtown businesses. After a lively discussion, the jury settled on seven different awards to capture the most creative efforts of the shopkeepers.

Best Overall Holiday Display: *F&M Bank* for their elegant window decorations in a traditional theme that continues down Easy Street and culminates with a large outdoor-lighted Christmas tree. (121 North Main St. and Easy Street)

Most Original: *A Step in Time* (5 Easy St.)

Best Themed Window Display: *Queen's Gifts* (221 South Main St.)

Most Elegant: *Caniche* (200 South Main St.)

Most Appealing: *Textile Products* (119-121 North Main St. and 114 North Main St.)

Most Nostalgic Display: *Okey Dokey & Co.* (126 East Innes St.)

Best Display for Children: *Salisbury Square Antiques* (111 South Main St.)

Best New Shop Display: *Critters* (125 South Main St.)

Grants

Bill Safrit attended the City Council meeting, on behalf of the CAC, December 18, 2008, to request an additional \$10,000 for grants based on the implications made earlier by Council; City Council did agree to provide the additional amount as requested.

About \$110 remains between the two grant accounts (ISG and MSD). No more grants will be issued this year, unless someone calls to say they will not be doing their project this year. Grant awards will restart in July 2008. Lynn Raker will follow up with ERA Glover to see if they will still be doing their project and inquire if they will still need their grant allocation.

Awards

The Awards Luncheon will be held February 27, 2008, in the Hilliard Room at Livingstone College. There will be another meeting later to prepare invitations. Former chairs of the CAC will be invited to attend as well as the original CAC members.

OLD BUSINESS

Goals for 2008-2009

There were two changes: (1) the amount of the programs budget was increased from \$1600 to \$1800, (2) Add "to support DSI's efforts to develop maintenance ordinance for downtown commercial buildings." The second item had previously been included, but did not reach completion this past year. For this reason, the CAC will keep it in this year's goals.

The Tree Board supports the CAC's effort to purchase more benches and trash receptacles in the downtown. Joe Morris thinks it is important to continue to pursue this effort.

Barbara Lawther made a MOTION to accept the Community Appearance Goals for 2008-2009 as submitted. Suzanne Casey seconded the motion with all members voting AYE. (7-0) The goals will be presented January 16 at the City Council meeting. Members are encouraged to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

The City of Salisbury and the Rowan County Convention and Visitors Bureau have engaged a consultant, Mary Berryman Agard, to create a cultural action plan for Salisbury. The City has appointed a broad-based Steering Committee of local residents to help shape the process. Joe Morris, Planning and Community Development Manager, is the city's lead staff for this planning process.

Cultural planning is a systematic, public exploration of an area's arts and cultural aspirations, assets, and needs; an examination of the ways in which arts and cultural commerce, creation, and programs can

contribute to broad civic goals; and the development of shared, sustainable, and equitable strategies to help achieve those aspirations. Cultural planning is not the imposition of outsiders' notions about culture on a community.

The planning process got started in September of 2007 and is targeted for completion in May of 2008.

There will be a number of opportunities for public participation in the process including small group meetings, interviews, and a community-wide Cultural Summit. To register your interest in participating, contact Diana Moghrabi. You can also send your ideas directly to the consultant.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Barbara Lawther asked to discuss the aged and diminishing appearance of the downtown Christmas decorations. All agreed that they need to be replaced, but they are very expensive. Downtown Salisbury, Inc. is currently in charge of the decorations.
- Bill Safrit inquired about the status of parking on front lawns. This was included in the adopted Land Development Ordinance as of January 1, 2008.

Chapter 10-2 of the land development code states, "***Front Yard Parking for Single-Family & Duplex Development:*** *Vehicle parking in the front yard shall be located on a prepared surface, as defined in this chapter, and shall not exceed 25% of the front yard width. This provision shall not apply to front yard circulation drives.*"

The CAC requested a focus article on this matter to be released by staff management. The public needs to be aware of this change.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The next regular CAC meeting will be February 6, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Moghrabi
Secretary